

The Hon.

**John COBB**<sup>MP</sup>

Federal Member for Calare  
Shadow Minister for Agriculture & Food Security

# Calare *in* Focus

*Caring for Calare*



**ORANGE OFFICE:** PO Box 673, 1/179a Anson Street, ORANGE NSW 2800 **PHONE:** (02) 6361 7138 **FAX:** (02) 6362 3480

**BATHURST OFFICE:** 85 Keppel Street, PO Box 54, BATHURST NSW 2795 **PHONE:** (02) 6331 0524 **FAX:** (02) 6331 2561

**EMAIL:** john.cobb.mp@aph.gov.au **WEBSITE:** www.johncobb.com.au

## Government Youth Allowance back-flip a win for Calare's students

The Gillard Government has finally introduced legislative changes to give Inner Regional students the same access to Independent Youth Allowance as students from Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas. The unceasing campaign by students, parents, teachers, communities and the Coalition has at last made the government realise that students from Lithgow, Oberon, Bathurst, Blayney, Orange and Cabonne require the same degree of assistance as those in remote areas.

From 1 January 2012, our students will have the opportunity to take a gap year, get a job and be eligible for the living away from home allowance.

The Nationals and Coalition have been fighting for these changes since March 2010. The irony is that had this government not changed the Independent Youth Allowance criteria in the first place, they wouldn't need to spend a further \$265 million on more changes. This is yet another example of an incompetent and wasteful Labor Government.

My sincere thanks goes out to all who supported the Nationals and Coalition in fighting to bring about these changes. However this does not excuse the fact that the Gillard Government changed the eligibility criteria and created unnecessary stress for many students across Calare. The school leavers of 2009/2010 are the ones who have been affected and the government has failed to acknowledge this problem.

I am pleased that commonsense has finally prevailed and regional students will be treated fairly, regardless of where they live, when it comes to accessing support for tertiary education.

*Are you in Year 12?  
Contact my office for your FREE copy of the 2011 School Leavers Guide*

## What are the changes?

**Social Security Amendment (student Income Support reforms) Bill 2011:**

- \$265 million package
- Changes to take effect as of 1 January 2012
- Inner Regional students will be able to access Independent Youth Allowance under the same criteria as Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas.
- Relocation Scholarship will be increased
- Start-up Scholarship will be decreased
- More information on the eligibility criteria for Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote students can be found at [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)



# Carbon Tax woes continue:

Over the past months I have met with numerous businesses and industries throughout Calare to discuss the Gillard Government's carbon tax. For the majority of businesses in our region, this tax will be extremely damaging. We are a region

of producers and this tax is essentially a tax on production. Mining, agriculture, transport, forestry and small business – these are the industries Calare relies on and all will be hit hard with the introduction of a carbon tax.

## What businesses are saying about the carbon tax:

- **Jeff Hort, Managing Director, Jeff Hort Engineering:**

“Sales are down. Everywhere we go orders are being held back, new orders have literally dried up. The reason. Fear of the Mining Tax and the Carbon Tax.”

- **Luke Welfare, General Manager/Western, Delta Electricity:**

“The biggest issue in the Government's scheme is the highest polluters receive compensation not to change their behaviour.”

- **Peter Darley, NSW Farmers Association:**

“Horticulture will be hugely impacted, freight will be impacted, fertilisation, electricity ... It will be an absolute disaster.”

- **George Tanos, Managing Director, Blayney Wholesale Foods:**

“Most of my customers are small business owners and all are struggling to survive. I am reluctant to increase their food prices because I know that will have dramatic impact on their viability.”

# Men's Shed movement vital to regional communities

I recently had the pleasure of attending the official opening of the Oberon Men's Shed. I was thrilled to see that the community's 18 months of hard work has paid off, with the construction of a fantastic new facility for the local men.

The Shed, located at the Oberon Showground, features a range of tools and equipment for local blokes to use, a working kitchen and most importantly, a great wood stove for those chilly Oberon days. The opening was a great success and it was encouraging to see so many people from the community attend the event.

Oberon's Men's Shed, like so many I have visited, is more than just a place for blokes to get together. The Shed will run programs educating men on healthy eating, and common health problems like diabetes.

Men's Sheds have proven to be invaluable in promoting men's health issues and encouraging them to talk about any issues they may have. Men tend to sweep health problems, both physical and mental, under the carpet and sometimes with terrible consequences. This is why the Men's Shed movement is vital in bringing men and communities together, particularly in regional areas.

There are now more than 500 Men's Sheds across Australia, which are being utilised by more than 75,000 men. It is impressive to see many being established in Calare and I thank the communities for supporting this worthwhile cause. Congratulations to Men's Shed President Ian Davis, Secretary David McMurray and all those who helped make the Oberon Men's Shed a reality.

Happy second birthday to the Parkes Men's Shed and congratulations to all those involved in getting the project up and running for the community of Parkes.



Top: Congratulations to the Oberon community on the opening of the local Men's Shed.



Contact your local Men's Shed to see how you can get involved!

Cobby meets with Parkes Men's Shed for a cuppa



## Illegal boat arrivals are out of control under Labor.

Year	Number of Boats	Number of Illegal arrivals
2005	4	11
2006	6	60
2007	5	148
2008	7	179
2009	61	2856
2010	135	6889
2011*	42	2668

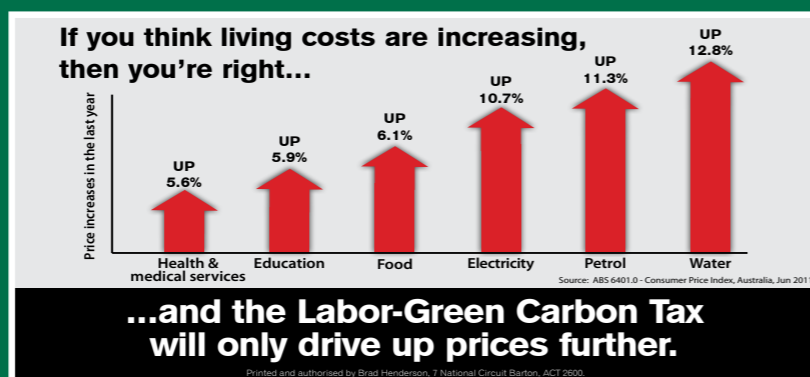
**FACT**

Since the Rudd/Gillard Labor government weakened border protection, more than 239 boats and over 12,100 people have arrived illegally in Australia by boat.

\* as at 5/10/2011  
Printed and authorised by Brad Henderson, 7 National Circuit Barton, ACT 2600.



Cobby at the Bathurst 1000 with Tony Abbott, Troy Grant MP and Paul Toole MP



# Poker machine reform debate heats up

The campaign against the Federal Government's mandatory pre-commitment technology on poker machines is heating up with the AFL and NRL joining the fight against the reforms. I am all for helping those who put their gambling habits in front of their family's needs, however what right do we have to tell people they have to fill in a quasi statutory declaration before they can bet? It seems the government can't help but to interfere into everyone's private lives and I think it is way over the top.

The Coalition does not believe these key recommendations made by Independent MP Andrew Wilkie will effectively address or prevent the underlying problems of gambling addiction. Labor seems to have a propensity to create a nanny state. Political correctness is getting way out of hand – especially with a government which is essentially telling tobacco companies to wrap a legal product in brown paper and direct people, who are pursuing a legal recreational pastime, to sign a quasi statutory declaration.

Gambling creates a social problem for a small number of people, but it is a problem that should be handled through education and counselling initiatives.

## Facts about poker machines in the Calare Electorate:

- 49 registered clubs
- Over 80,000 club members
- 906 club employees
- \$18 million to set up the mandatory pre commitment system
- Reduction in revenue for Clubs in Calare is expected to exceed \$19.1 million

# Calare Quiz

1. What is the name of the world's oldest discovered open caves (discovered 340 million years ago!) which are located in Calare?
2. Which Central West icon celebrates its 50th anniversary this year?
3. The Cadia East project is expected to be one of the world's largest underground mines for which minerals?
4. Which tourist attraction in the Cabonne Shire is a palaeontological site of world significance?
5. The 'place of many rocks' is the Wiradjuri name for which Calare town?
6. Which village is one of the oldest settlements west of the Blue Mountains, having been discovered by surveyor George Evans in 1813?
7. Which town attracted National interest for decades with its "Murphy Marathon" - a race where the contestants carried a 145lb(65kg) bag of potatoes through the town over a one mile (1.6kkm) course?
8. Australia's first cement works was opened in 1902 and was located in which Calare town?
9. The first Agriculture, Horticulture and Pastoral Association show was held in which Calare village?
10. What is the name of the bushranger gang whose leaders were hanged in Bathurst in 1830?

1. Jenolan Caves - 2. Parkes Radio Telescope - 3. Gold/copper - 4. Age of Fisheries Museum - 5. Molong - 6. Rocky - 7. Millthorpe - 8. Portland - 9. O'Connell - 10. The Ribbon Gang.

*Answers*

# Student Exchange – an experience of a lifetime:

In recent months I have farewelled a number of local students who are setting off to various parts of the globe on student exchange programs.

Most recently, I met Danica Flood, currently in Year 10 at MacKillop College, who is embarking on a three month exchange to France. Danica will live with a family in Saint Viatre, near the Loire Valley, in central France and attend the local school, College Jean-Francois Roques.

I have also recently met with Rebekah Kwa and Georgia Holmes from Kinross Wolaroi School, who are both heading to France and also Celia Caldwell from James Sheahan High School who is off to Norway. Each of these students will have the opportunity to attend a local school and immerse themselves in a new culture.

Student exchange programs give young people an opportunity of a lifetime – to live and learn in a foreign country. Students are able to practise a second language, develop fantastic communication skills, learn about a different culture and make friends from across the world. The life lessons these students gain on exchange programs are truly invaluable.

It is great to see students from Calare taking advantage of these programs. We wish all of Calare's exchange students a safe and happy journey and I look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return.

**If you know of someone embarking on a student or cultural exchange please contact my office to arrange a presentation of an Australia flag and information pack to take overseas.**

*Top Left: Georgia Holmes – attends Kinross Wolaroi School, visiting France for 2 months. Top right: Celia Caldwell – attends James Sheahan High School, visiting Norway for 3 months. Bottom Left: Danica Flood – attends MacKillop College, visiting France for 3 months. Bottom Right: Rebekah Kwa – attends Kinross Wolaroi School, visiting France for 5 months.*



## Contact Us...

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